Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 01882 201211Z

41
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 DPW-01 SS-15 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 /055 W
---------- 111364
R 201040Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2884
INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMIPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1882

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI VS
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN VINH BINH

FOLLOWING TEL RECEIVED FROM CAN THO FEB 19, SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON H/W REPEATED TO YOU. QTE:

C O N F ID E N T I A L CAN THO 0063

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI VS
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN VINH BINH

REF: FVA 5262

1. ON BASIS VISIT TO VINH BINH ON FEB 17 AND DISCUSSION WITH SPECIAL TASK FORCE COMMANDER, COL NGUYEN DINH VINH AND PROVINCE CHIEF LTC NGUYEN VAN SON, I CONCLUDE THAT BALANCE BETWEEN NVA/VC AND GVN FORCES HAS BEEN REACHED IN PROVINCE. BOTH SIDES DEPLETED AVAILABLE MANPOWER DURING HEAVY FIGHTING IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY THUS LIMITING THEIR PRESENT COMBAT CAPABILITY. INTRODUCTION OF TWO BATTALIONS FROM ARVN 7TH DIVISION, COUPLED WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN VINH BINH BY SPECIAL TASK FORCE COMMANDER VINH, SEEMS TO HAVE ARRESTED DRAMATIC DECLINE IN SECURITY
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 01882 201211Z

RESULTING FROM INTRODUCTION INTO PROVINCE OF D-1 NVA

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

REGIMENT IN NOVEMBER FOLLOWED BY HARD HITTING ATTACKS BY
NVA/VC THROUGHOUT DECEMBER AND JANUARY.

2. GVN FORCES NOW BEGINNING TO MOVE OUT INTO AREAS PREVIOUSLY
OVERRUN BY NVA/VC. DUE SERIOUS LOSSES DURING SUSTAINED
OFFENSIVE, NVA/VC FORCES IN PROVINCE APPEAR BE OVER-EXTENDED
AND NOT CAPABLE HOLDING GROUND THEY HAVE TAKEN. EQUALLY,
GVN FORCES LACK NUMERICAL STRENGTH TO PROVIDE SECURITY
IN LARGE CONTESTED AREAS OF PROVINCE. THUS, INCONCLUSIVE
WRESTLING FOR ADVANTAGE LIKELY CONTINUE UNTIL ONE SIDE OR
THE OTHER ABLE TO INCREASE ITS MARGIN OF ADVANTAGE. THIS
IS NOT TO SAY THAT NVA/VC FORCES NOW IN PROVINCE ARE NOT
CAPABLE OF FURTHER REDUCING, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, GVN
CONTROL SHOULD THEY WISH MAKE FURTHER LARGE SACRIFICE.
HOWEVER THEIR MOST LIKELY COURSE OF ACTION UNTIL THEIR
UNITS ARE REINFORCED WITH REPLACEMENTS OR ADDITIONAL UNITS
ARRIVE IS TO ENGAGE IN LETHAL TUG-OF-WAR IN ATTEMPT KEEP
GVN FORCES ON DEFENSIVE AND OUT OF CONTESTED COUNTRYSIDE.
ADVANTAGE FINALLY WILL GO TO SIDE ABLE INCREASE ITS FORCES
MOST RAPIDLY AND ACT AGGRESSIVELY. BUT, FOR TIME BEING, EVEN
ISOLATED, BELEAGURED LOAN TOAN DISTRICT HQ SEEMS SAFE FROM
THREAT OF SUCCESSFUL DIRECT ASSAULT.
MCNAMARA UNQTE
MARTIN

NOTE BY OC/T: THIS MESSAGE APPEARS TO CONTAIN SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE
INFORMATION.

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NNN

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